THE British Youth's INSTRUCTOR:

Or, the Useful Penman.

A New Copy-Book.

Containing

Alphabets and Sentences in Round Text, large and small Round Hand, and Running Hand: An Abstract of the Theory of Writing, Initial Letters, Struck Capitals, and other Curious Decorations.

Written,

By several of the Best Masters, and Engrav'd

By George Bickham, Sen.r

Designed for the Use of Schools and Families.

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INSTRUCTOR:

Inſtructions on the Art of WRITING.

Of the PEN.

CUSTOM, when eſtabliſh'd, is called Second Nature; becauſe when we are long uſed to a particular Method or Manner of Action, it is a difficult Thing to alter it.

A wiſe Man will change a Cuſtom of antient Date at any Time for a better, if ſuch a Change may not occaſion ſome Inconvenience, that may be of as bad Conſequence as the Continuance of ſuch a Cuſtom.

Our Forefathers for many Years practiſed a ſmall running Secretary Hand, and about ſixty Years ago, it was as great a Rarity to meet with a Perſon who had not been ſo taught, as it is now to meet with one that is. To talk then of Round Hand, and perſuade the Practice of it, was the ſame Thing, as it would be now, to introduce a new Character unknown to the Generality of Mankind.

But at length the Excellency and Uſefulneſs of the Round Hand prevailing with many eminent Penmen to ſhew the Delicacy of it, and its natural Tendency to facilitate and diſpatch Buſineſs being conſidered, it is univerſally received and practiſed by all Degrees of Men in all Employments, the Law only excepted.

All our modern Writing-Maſters in their Copy-Books have endeavoured to improve it, and through their worthy Labours for the Public, the preſent and ſucceeding Ages have ſuch excellent Pieces to copy after, as perhaps cannot be amended.

England, by this Time, may boaſt of Superiority in this noble Art, ſhe having out-done many, and being out-done by none,

Of the Round Hand.

THE principal Things to be aimed at in this (or any) Hand, is to get an exact Idea of a good Letter, which is done by a frequent and nice Obſervation of a correct Copy; and then to get ſuch a Command of Hand as to be able to expreſs with the Pen, that Idea on Paper which is attained by conſtant and careful Practice after good Examples.

This Hand is compoſed of an Oval and a ſtraight Line, and leans to the Right.

This Hand (and all others) depends on fundamental Letters, which here are *l*, *o*, *n*, *j*.

Let the inward Width of *n*, be equal to half its perpendicular Heighth; of *o* to half its Slope-heighth; the Heighth of *l* muſt be equal to twice the Length of *n*, and at leaſt not to exceed thrice; and *j* muſt be equal in Length to *l*.

Let the Thickneſs of the full Stroke be equal to one fifth of the Width of *n*, and when a ſtrong Hand is required, it will bear one fourth.

The principal Joinings *and* Meetings *of Letters are theſe.*

1. When two right-lined Letters meet and join in the Middle, as *ui*, *ll*, *th*, *nu*, *ni*, *ib*, &c. the Diſtance is equal to the inward Width of *n*.

2. When two Ovals meet, as *oo*, *ve*, *bo*, *og*, &c. the Diſtance is equal to half *n*.

3. When

3. When the Oval and the Right-line meet, as *oi*, *vi*, *bu*, *on*, *so*, *lo*, &c. the Distance is equal to the Third Part of the Width of *n*.

4. When the Right-lined meet and join with a Turn at the Top of the following Letters; as, *nn*, *an*, *in*, *my*, &c. the Distance is equal to *n* and half *n*, the half being allowed for the Turn at the Top, and the joining Stroke, but when they come before *x*, *s*, or *z*, as *nx*, *is*, *iz*, &c. then the Distance is about *n*, and the third Part of *n*.

5. When half-oval Letters come before right-lined, and join in the middle, as *oi*, *eu*, *xt*, the Distance is equal to *n* and half *n*, but when they join with a Turn at the Top, as *ew*, *xn*, *cy*, &c. about the Thickness of the Full-stroke may be allowed for the Turn, and if they come before *s*, *x*, or *z*, as *ex*, *es*, *ez*, the Distance is near twice *n*.

The Manner of joining the Letters is best discovered by the Examples, but in general, the Distance between the Letters appears to the Eye nearly equal in Area to the White contained in the *n*, or *o*.

Move your Hand and turn lightly on the End of your little Finger, and endeavour to make a whole Letter at one continued Stroke, expressing the full and fine Stroke without turning or taking off the Pen, but when your Hand wants resting you may for your Conveniency take off the Pen, tho' it be in the Middle of a Letter, yet never in a full Stroke, but only where it may be continued without being afterwards discerned, or any ways prejudicial to the Letter.

Let the Hair Strokes of the *m*, *n*, &c. be carried out from about the Middle of the Body Strokes, and let the Turn at the Top and Bottom of the last Stroke, as well as the other Turns of that Kind be alike; and then there will be an Agreement between the fine as there is between the Body Strokes.

Make Capital Letters equal to the Height of *l*, and a little stronger.

Let the Distance of Words be equal to the Width of the small *m*, and not much more.

Of Striking, *or* Command *of* Hand, Figures, &c.

STRIKING is called Command of Hand, because it is performed without the least Agitation of the Fingers, or resting on the Hand or Arm.

It is of two Kinds, English *and* Dutch.

The *English* Command is performed with the Hollow of the Pen turned towards the End of the Middle Finger, and is naturally light, airy, and genteel; therefore the most beautiful for Figures, Flourishes, &c. as well as most agreeable for the Italian and Running Round Hands.

The *Dutch* Command is performed with the Hollow or Scope of the Pen, held towards the Ball or Hollow of the Hand; and is most proper for Letters in the Round Hand, because the Fulls fall alike; the Pen being held as in Writing, only the Knib a little elevated.

The Center of Motion in Striking is at the Shoulder, from whence let your Hand and Arm swing together, with a sprightly Motion, without resting or touching the Paper with any thing but the Pen, which must not be turned in the Hand while you are making of any Stroke.

The slower the Motion the surer; but yet there must be such a Boldness and Freedom observed, that the Stroke may be smart and clean, without Roughness or any Flatness or Corners.

To the Most

Nobility, Clergy, And Gentry Of GREAT BRITAIN;

This Book,

INTITLED

The British Youth's Instructor,

Is most humbly Dedicated,

By Their most Obedient, and

Very Humble Servant

George Bickham

Geo. Jr. Sculp.

Tel me what

On the ART of WRITING.

QUERY.

Tell me what Genius did the Art Invent,
The lively Image of a Voice to Paint?
Who first the Secret how to Colour Sound,
And to give Shape to Reason wisely found,
With Bodies how to cloath Ideas Taught,
And how to draw the Picture of a Thought?
Who Taught the Hand to Speak, the Eye to Hear,
A Silent Language Roving far and near,
Whose Softest Notes outstrip Loud Thunder's Sound,
And spread Their Accents thro' the World's vast Round;
Yet with kind Secresy securely Roll
Whispers of Absent Friends from Pole to Pole:
A Voice Heard by the Deaf, Spoke by the Dumb,
Whose Ecchо reaches long, long Time to come,
Which Dead Men Speak, as well as those Alive;
Tell me what Genius did this Art contrive?

ANSWER.

The Wise Egyptians by the Learnid are thought,
To be the First who use of Writing taught.
In Hieroglyphicks, They expressed their Sense
With nicest Skill and wondrous Eloquence.
Letters unknown, They did this Art invent,
To make Thought Lasting, Reason permanent.
Till ISIS of Immortal Fame arose,
And taught by Letters how they might compose
A Dress to shew the Image of the Voice,
And make Sound Lasting tho' depriv'd of Noise.
SHE made ỹ Dumb to Speak, ỹ Deaf to Understand,
And taught the Eye to Hear ỹ Language of the Hand.
But had th' Egyptian Queen by Art Divine,
Taught how to Write such Beauteous Lines as THINE,
Those Heavenly Honours offer'd to her Name,
Had shone with greater Lustre, brighter Flame.

OBSERVATIONS.

AN Abstract of the Theory of Writing.

All Letters evin at Head & Feet must stand,
And tend one way, exactly, in each Hand.

Be Sure all Words stand distant a like Space,
And with true Full & Small your Writing grace.

Carry your Pen light when Hair-Strokes you make,
And let Full-Strokes of greater poize partake.

Draw with ye Corner of your Pen Strokes fine;
For Fulls its Nib must to a Flat incline.

Each Compass-Letter, in all Hands you write,
Must have a like Diameter, and White.

For ye Command of Hand, advance your Arm;
So your rare Strokes will all Beholders charm.

Guide so your Pen, that no harsh Roughness lie
In any part, which may offend the Eye.

He that in short time would write fast & fair;
Must mind his Copy with ingenious Care.

1

Thomas

Right forward place your Book, or Sit, or Stand;
On your small Fingers lightly bear your Hand.

Strokes rightly placd great Elegance display,
And no full Strokes should cross each other's Way.

Turn not your Head aside; hold in your Arm;
Sit from the Desk, to keep your Breast from Harm.

Upright your Head and Body place; extend
Your Fingers, & your right Hand outward bend.

View well each Letter when you come to write;
So shall you learn to Copy with Delight.

When Stems, or Tails, turn in a free curve Line,
Do not their Lengths to others Size confine.

X ten Things a Penman should have near at Hand;
Skill, Books, Desk, Pens, Ink, Knife, Rule, Slate, bone, Sand.

Youth best ye Practice of these Rules may learn;
Experienc'd Age their Justness will discern.

Zeal is not blam'd that teaches to do well;
'Tis noble Emulation to excell.

'Tis noble Emulation to excell.
Zeal is not blam'd

Fear God, &

The Instructor.

I Wisdom dwell with Prudence

And those that seek me early shall find me — But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own Soul: All they that hate me love Death — Hear O my Son and receive my Sayings; and the Years of thy Life shall be many. Take fast hold of Instruction, Let her not go: Keep her

For She is thy Life.

Behold the Fear of the Lord, That is Wisdom, And to depart from Evil is Understanding.

The first of all the Commandments is,

Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy Heart, and with all thy Soul, and with all thy Mind, and with all thy Strength.

This is the First and Great Commandment. And the second is like, Namely, This

Thou shalt Love thy Neighbour as thy Self.

On these two Commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

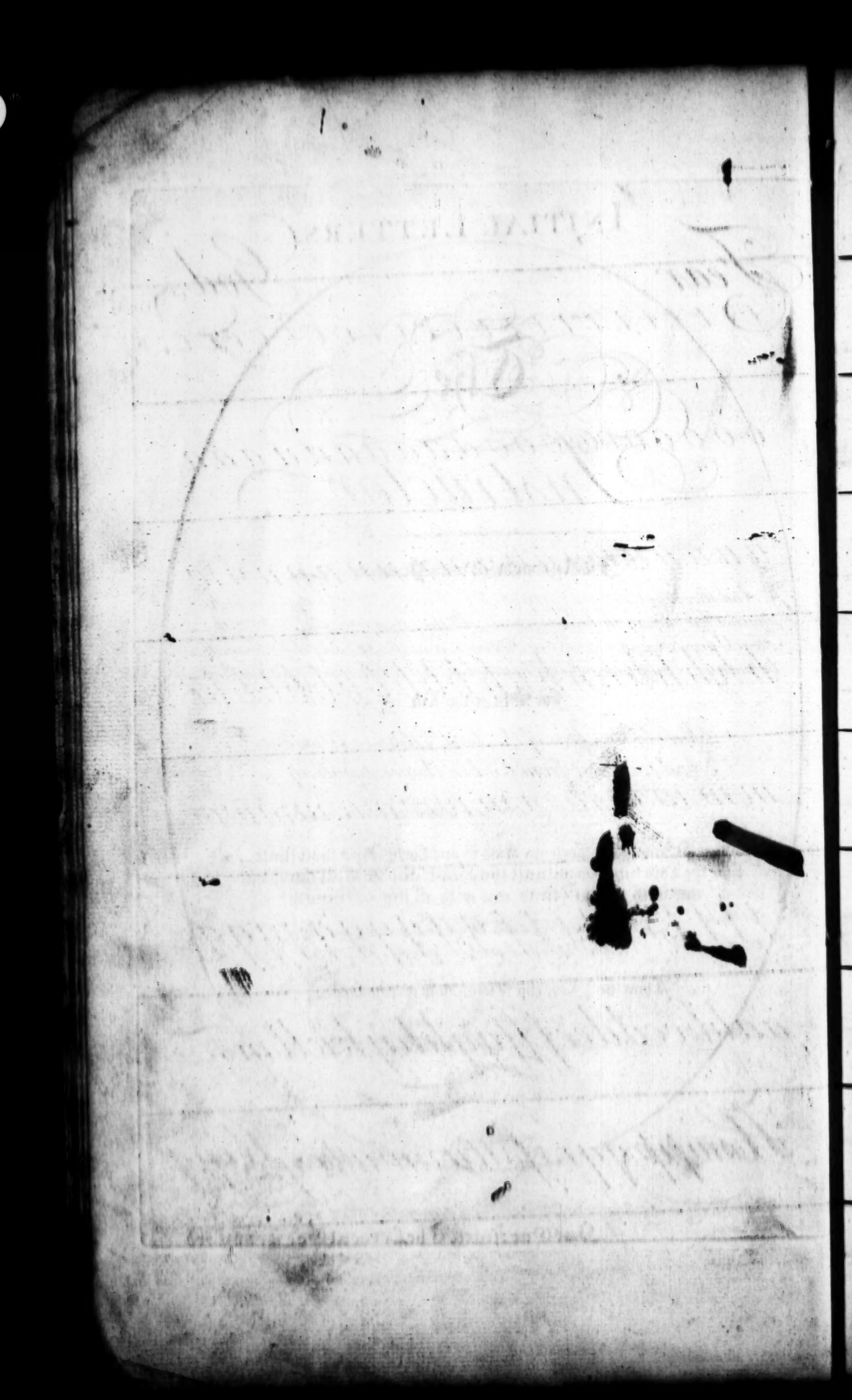
The first

Honour the King.

Bland scrip.

The first of all the Commandments is

Hear Our Israel. The Lord our God is one Lord



Initial Letters.

i i i i i i i i i i i i c c c c c c c c c c c c

o o o o o o o o o o o a a a a a a a a a a

u u u u u u u u u u u n n n n n n n n n n

h h h h h h h h h h h b b b b b b b b b b

m m m m m m m m m n n n n n n n n n n n

j j j j j j j j j j j g g g g g g g g g g

a a b b c c d d e e f f f g g h h i j k k l l m n

n n o o p p q q r s f s t t u v n w x y z z

1.

3R

amend

La

Round Text Copies.

By several Masters.

Aàblbcdeeffffghhijkkllmm.

nnopppqqqrrsſsdtuvvvwwxyyyz.

ABCDEEFGHH

IJJKKLMNOPQQ

RSTTUVWXYZZ.

Learn to improve your time.

Fortune favours the diligent.

Beware of evil company.

La

Keep no Company with One who is given to Detraction.

A Sluggard, and a diſsolute Perſon are often Companions.

Custom is the Plague of Wiſe Men, and the Idol of Fools.

Nothing is more Deſtructive than a depraved Judgement.

It is the highest Ingratitude to overlook a Thouſand Mercies, and murmur at One Affliction.

G. Bickham, ſculpſit.

Covet not many Books; but let them be like the Number of your Friends, few; and such as you may delightfully improve by.

Take heed to be without Mistake or Crime;
One Day may blemish Years of well-spent Time.
Your Days to come, may ne'er again Redress
What Folly one small Moment may express.

Value no Man for his Opinion, but esteem him according as his Life corresponds with the rules of Piety & Justice: For a Man's Actions, not his Conceptions, render him Valuable.

G. Bickham, Sculp. from Vaux.

This concep tions ren[illegible]

A B C

13
13

A A B C

D E E F

G H I J

K L L M

M N O P

Q R S T

T U V W

X Y Z &

Middletown, Ver.t Nov.r
Town Champion

M

Round Hand Copies.

Aaabbccddeeeffffggghhijjkkllmi
mmnnoooppqqrrsfsttuvnvxxyyzz.

ABCDEEFGHHIJJKLLM.
MNOPP2RSTUVNXXYZ.

Aambmcmdmemfmgmhhmimkmlmmm
nmompmqmrrmfmtmumvmnvmxxyzz.

Censure none rashly; Nature's apt to halt;
Look inward; He's Unborn that has no Fault.

If wrong'd resent not; Patience Conduct shows:
Good Manners & soft Words make Friends of foes.

Disgrace attends all Vice; ill Actions shun;
What's done with Virtue is with Honour done.

1234567890. 1234567890.

Bickham, Sen.r

Advice.

Be satisfy'd and pleas'd with what thou art;
Act chearfully and well th' allotted Part:
Enjoy this Hour, be thankful for the past;
Nor fear, nor wish th' Approaches of the last.

In prosperous Fortunes be modest and wise;
The Greatest may fall, and the Lowest may rise:
But insolent People that fall in Disgrace
Are wretched, and No-body pities their Case.

Quickly lay hold on Time, while in your Power;
Be careful well to husband ev'ry Hour:
Despair of Nothing which you would attain,
Unwearied Diligence your Point will gain.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Small Round Hand.

Aamm, Bbmm, Ccmm, Ddmm, Eemm, Ffmm
Ggmm, Hhmm, Iimm, Jjm, Kkm, Llmm, Mmm,
Nnmm, Oomm, Ppmm, Qqmm, Rrm, Ssm, Ttmi,
Uumi, Vvmm, Wwmm, Xxmm, Yymm, Zzzmm

Do not purſue the Things of this World immoderately:
Be not dejected for any Diſappointment: Crave nothing
too eagerly: Rejoyce not exceſsively at any Proſperity:
So ſhall you live quietly, and die contentedly. G.B. 1751.

Never will any thing but what is according to Reaſon; nor
think any thing reaſonable but what is honeſt and lawful.
Never Swear, for Oaths are no Ornament to Converſation;
for inſtead of beautifying it, they make it moſt contemptible.

Beware of Drunkeneſs: It impairs the Underſtanding;
wastes the Eſtate, baniſhes the Reputation, conſumes the
Body, and renders a Man of the brighteſt Parts, the com-
mon Jeſt of an inſignificant Clown, or ye meaneſt Plebeian.

G. Bickham Sculp. from Snell.

Instructive Sentences.

Let Decency be obferv'd in all your Actions and Discourfe: Never ſtudy to be Diverting without being Useful; let no Jeſt intrude upon good Manners; nor ſay any thing that may offend a Chaſt Ear. Never talk over much of what you know; leaſt you be ſuſpected to talk of what you do not know: And Remember, that tho' Silence is not always the Mark of a Wiſe man, yet Noice and Impertinence do certainly descover that the Man wants Underſtanding.

Of Pride in thy Proſperity beware; Viciſſitudes of Fortune conſtant are.

Entertain Honour with Humility; Poverty with Patience; Bleſsings with Thankfulneſs; & Afflictions with Reſignation; give your Heart to your Creator; Reverence to your Superiors; Honour to your Parents; your Boſom to your Friend; Diligence to your Calling; Ear to good Counſel; and Alms to the Poor.

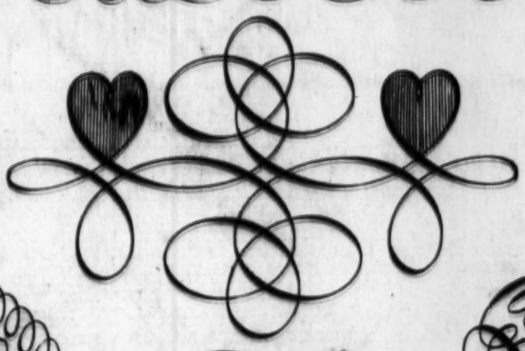
Be Humble and be Juſt.

my brother James gave this
book to my brother John and
my brother John gave me
but to me god give me
learning to use for
Hand

Let not

Let not

A New True Lover's Knot:



Or, the Constant Couple.

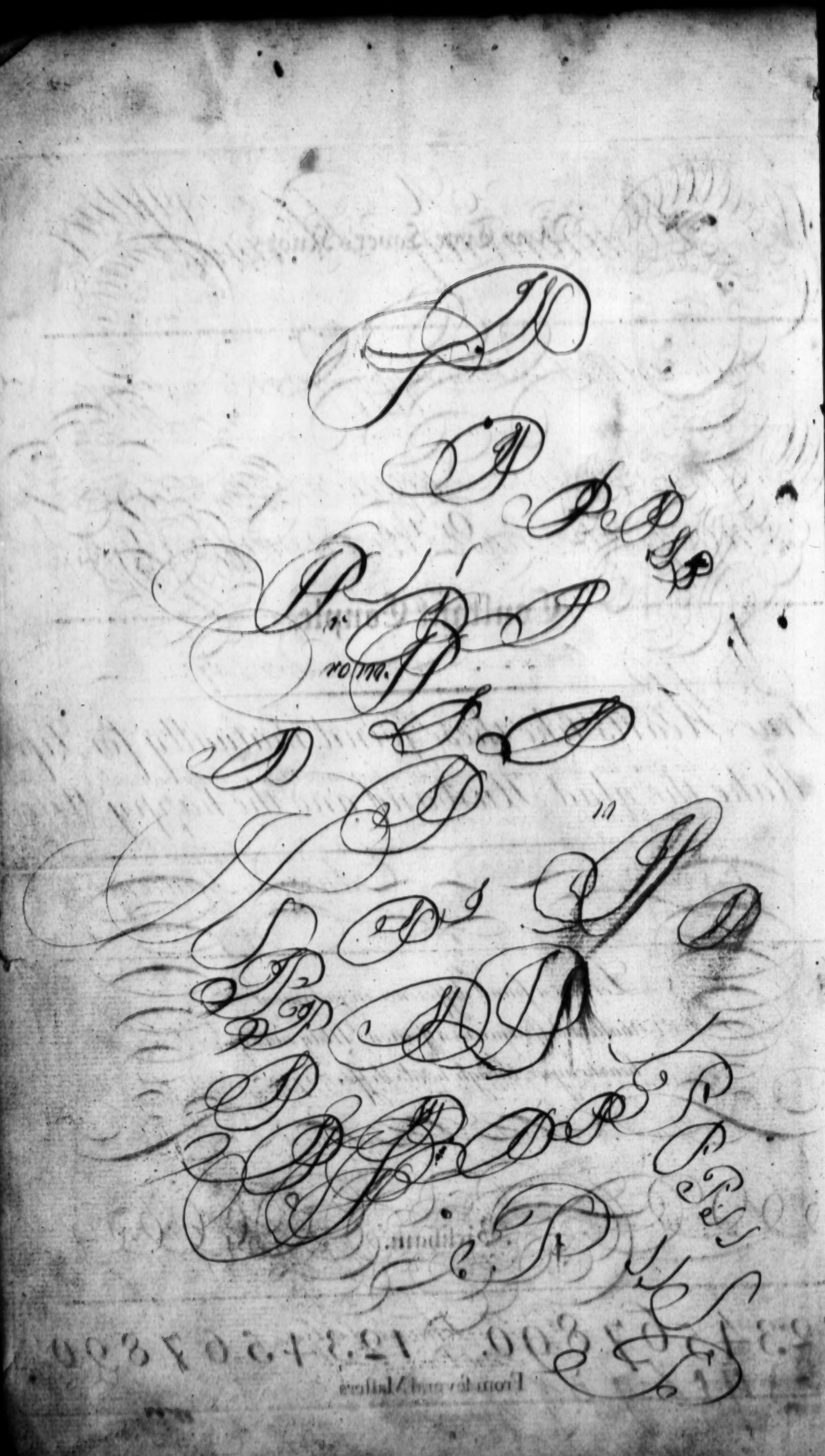
True Hearts like these join'd mutually for Life,
Make the glad Husband and the happy Wife.

Let not a small difference in judgment make a difference in affection: May not hearts agree, though heads differ. 1750.

Pickham.

1234567890. 1234567890.

From several Masters.



Running Hand.

Aa aa bb cc dd ee ff gg hh ij jk kk ll mm no op pq qu rr ss st tt uu vv ww xx yy yz.

A A B B C C D D E E F F G G H H I J K K L L M
N N O O P P Q Q R R S S T T U U V W X X Y Y Z.
R K S S

June 22. 1751.

Promise to pay Mr. Samuel Cuningham or bearer on demand Forty two pounds One Shilling and Six pence Value receiv'd.

£42.1.6. Edward Laurence

Receiv'd 24 June 1751. of Mr. Ralph Southall Twenty Four pounds Ten Shillings in full for half a Years Rent due at Christmass last

£24.10.- John Carein

G. Bickham. Sculp.
From Vaux

From Several Masters.

Let fair

Lond 999

A Prayer for BRITANNIA,

By Mr. Prior.

Long let Britannia, great, illustrious Name,
Be first in Conquest, and preside in Fame:
Long let her favour'd Monarchy engage
The Teeth of Envy, and the Force of Age:—
Secure by Heavn's great Care let Britain stand;
Nor ever dread the bold Invader's Hand:—
From adverse Shores in safety let Her hear
Foreign Calamity, and distant War;
Of which let Her, great Heavn, no Portion bear.
Betwixt the Nations let Her hold the Scale,
And as She wills, let either Part prevail:—
Let her glad Vallies smile with wavy Corn:—
Let fleecy Flocks her rising Hills adorn:—
Around her Coast let strong Defence be spread:
Let fair Abundance on her Breast be shed:
And heavnly Sweets bloom round y Goddess Head.

Bickham. Sculp.

And her

Thomas Moore

London Sept. 8th

At Mr. Moores Carpenter

Tottenham Court Road No. 11

Near Buford Square

June 20 1792 So no more at

Present From Tho. Moore